Trade between Japan and India

733. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade between Japan and India is at a very low stage at present;

(b) if so, whether it has been suggested that the current complementary structure of trade should shift to more value-added and diversified products;

(c) whether 200 Japanese firms are operating in India and are prepared to increase their investments provided the operating environment improves;

(d) if so, to what extent India has considered these suggestions and has modified the rules for more Japanese investments in the country;

(e) whether Japan has welcomed this move; and

(f) if so, to what extent it would be further improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) India-Japan trade, at a provisionally estimated US $ 3686 million during 2002-03, is more or less at the same level as in the preceding two years.

(b) The composition of Indo-Japan trade has been relatively inelastic and limited, with major items of India's export being gems and Jewellery, marine products and iron ore, and major items of imports being machinery, electronic goods and professional instruments. It is the constant endeavour of Government to diversify the country's export basket.

(c) to (f) There are more than 200 Japanese firms now operating in India. While the Government has not taken any country specific promotional measures for inviting investments from any country, including investments from Japan, in the recent past, in order to address the issue of investment promotion from Japan, India-Japan Investment Dialogue (IJID) mechanism has been set up.